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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/893,156 | 06/27/2001 | James John Wilson | DN2001117 | 3836 |

7590

03/11/2003

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Patent & Trademark Department - D/823
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EXAMINER

STEFANON, JUSTIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8K

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,156

Applicant(s)

WILSON ET AL.

Examiner

Justin Stefanon

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 5215504 to Wong et al.

Wong et al. disclose a power transmission belt having an inner surface with transverse grooves 18 and grooves 12, which are straight and therefore extend longitudinally. The transverse grooves are not perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the belt. The transverse and longitudinal grooves form rows of cogs 13 which are randomly arranged along the entire length of the belt and have at least six different longitudinal lengths, including three different longitudinal lengths, as seen in figure 2A. No more than four adjacent rows of cogs have the same longitudinal length, as there are no more than four longitudinally adjacent rows of cogs shown on the belt of Wong et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat Nos. 5,055,090 to Miranti, Jr. in view of 5,328,198 to Janne.

In reference to claims 1-4, Miranti, Jr. discloses the claimed invention except for the transverse grooves being not perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the belt. The belt of Miranti, Jr. has cogs of five different longitudinal lengths, which includes three different longitudinal lengths. Miranti discloses a sequence of lengths in which no more than two adjacent rows of cogs has the same longitudinal length. Janne teaches that it is known to make the transverse grooves not perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the belt. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to align the transverse grooves of Miranti, Jr. at an angle less than 90 degrees relative to the longitudinal direction of the belt as taught by Janne, since Janne teaches that such a modification would eliminate hinge points in the belt. It would further have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a random arrangement of pitch lengths along the entire belt instead of in a sequence, as Miranti teaches in column 4, lines 56-63, that the lengths may simply be randomly arranged.

In reference to claim 5, since there is no showing of unexpected results associated with the claimed sequence, it is seen as an obvious matter of design choice to provide the belt of Miranti, Jr. with the claimed sequence as an obvious variant of a random pattern of longitudinal lengths.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 18 December 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant correctly asserts that the longitudinally grooves of Wong do not lie along the longitudinal direction of the belt. However, they are

longitudinally extending grooves as broadly claimed, as they have a longitudinal direction of their own, transverse to the longitudinal direction of the belt. Applicant further argues that Miranti does not teach the rows of differing lengths randomly arranged in non-sequential manner along the entire length of the belt. While Miranti discloses an embodiment wherein the lengths are randomly arranged in a repeated sequence, it is well within the ordinary level of skill in the art to provide the random sequence throughout the belt.

Conclusion


5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin Stefanon whose telephone number is 703-305-1945. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 6 - 3:30, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Bucci can be reached on 703-308-3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

 3/10/03
DAVID A. BUCCI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

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March 10, 2003